ALL ABOARD

With G. E. Mortimore

SAFETY belts in cars would save 70 per cent of the lives that are lost in highway accidents, says Bruce Passmore, Victoria automobile dealer and former racing driver.

He thinks that safety belts in cars ought to be compulsory by law.

It isn't because he wants to sell safety belts, he insists. He doesn't mind where people buy their belts, as long as they buy them.

Research by Ford Motor Co. showed conclusively that safety belts saved many lives. Now belts are optional equipment in all Ford cars. But the public is indifferent to them.

As Mr. Passmore sees it, the safety belt is a lifesaver in two ways:

1. If you go into a dangerous skid or take a sharp turn, the belt holds you in place, stops you from being thrown away from the steering wheel and losing control.

2. If you do crash, belts prevent you from being thrown forward. They reduce the chance of injury.

With the type of belt that goes around your mid-section, your head and shoulders still might slump forward when a car comes to a sudden stop. But your chances of being hurt are far less than if you were rattling around loose in the car.

The most effective kind of safety belt, says Mr. Passmore, is the shoulder harness. But any competently made safety belt is good. Many garages will install belts for $5 upward.

Mr. Passmore went to the provincial government and tried to persuade them to equip provincial cars with safety belts. Six months later, the government decided to do it. Mr. Passmore put in a bid for supplying the belts.

The government rejected his bid; bought its belts for 10 cents each cheaper from an Ontario firm. But Mr. Passmore isn't complaining. He says he was glad to see the belts go in, regardless of who sold them.

Naturally he uses a belt in his own car. He has just acquired a new car, and is having a belt put in it.

He normally doesn't fasten the belt when he is jogging around town; only secures it when he takes to the highway.

The young Passmores, Roy, 13, and Fawn, 9, enjoy wearing belts. It makes them feel as if they are in a racing car or a plane.

"It's more or less a game with them," says Bruce Passmore, safety belt plugger.

* * *

Fred Usher, leader of Victoria's popular Western-style group, the Hometowners, has no fear of the number 13.

January 31 is the Hometowners' 13th anniversary. The five original members of the combination: Fred, Geoff Venables, Ernie Fullerton, Bob McGill and Bill Botten, have been together all that time.

The only recent addition is their present pianist and organist, Jack Lenaghan.

They had three consecutive years broadcasting across Canada from Victoria on the Dominion network of the CBC. They're off the air just now, but they hope to sign for another term soon.

They often give their services to entertain patients at Veterans' Hospital and inmates of the Wilkinson Road home.

* * *

A hen blue grouse fell in love with a Pacific Great Eastern Railway locomotive last April, game biologist Lawson Sugden of Williams Lake reports in the current number of "Wildlife Review," the magazine of the British Columbia fish and game branch.

"The bird was seen following the engine about for four days, travelling from one end of town to the other.

"Trainmen believe the grouse was wooed by the throbbing of the air compressor on the engine which could possibly sound—to a lovelorn hen grouse—like the hooting of a male bird.

"She finally became discouraged by the lack of response . . . from the engine and went alsewhere in search of . . . courtship."

From Cultus Lake, near Chilliwack, former fisheries officer Frank Pells reports that the swallows return to Cultus Lake on the same day each spring, just as they return to Capistrano in California.

"Swallow day" at Cultus Lake is April 22.

City Fortunate, Says Mayor

Water Rates to Rise 'To Pay Rebuilding

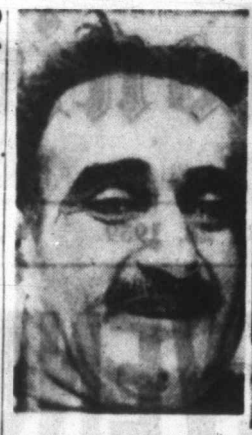
Water will cost more in Greater Victoria fairly soon, Mayor Percy Scurrah forecast yesterday, but "not an excessive amount."

The mayor, chairman of the Greater Victoria water board, made the prediction in the course of a luncheon address on municipal affairs to the Rotary Club. He spoke similarly Wednesday to the Victoria Life Underwriters' Association.

Victoria was fortunate in comparison with many municipalities, he said, because "we had many of our services installed years ago whereas many other cities have had to provide them during the past 10 years."

But Victori wasn't entirely free of the problem because "during the next five or six years it is going to be necessary for the people of this area to spend something in excess of $10,000,000 for the renewal and rebuilding of our Sooke Lake waterworks system."

Mayor Scurrah said the increase in cost of water to each householder, "when the work commences," was estimated at $1 a month.



MAURICE RUDDICK
. . . citizen of year

CARL SWITZER
. . . murder complaint

* * *

Names in the News

Nikita Goes North To Meet Top Finn

LENINGRAD — **Nikita Khrushchev** arrived here on a surprise trip from Moscow and conferred with visiting Finnish **President Urho Kekkonen** on "problems of the international situation."

* * *

HOLLYWOOD—The district attorney's office has decided to issue a murder complaint in the death of **Carl (Alfalfa) Switzer**, freckle-faced member of the "Our Gang" movie series, shot to death in a row over a $50 debt.

* * *

TORONTO—**Maurice Ruddick**, the singing miner of Springhill, N.S., has been named Canada's citizen of 1958 in a Toronto poll.

* * *

MONTESANO, Wash. (AP) —All pending charges have been dismissed, clearing away another barrier in the attempt of convicted slayer **Guido Grassi**, 79-year-old state prison inmate, to return to his native Italy to spend the rest of his days.

* * *

NEW WESTMINSTER — Police are trying to trace the family of **Percival Abbott**, 55, a recluse who was found dead Thursday in his trash-filled apartment. He had about $17,000 in a bank account and held title to a $80,000 motel.

* * *

HOLLYWOOD — **Mrs. Deborah Power**, widow of **Tyrone Power**, gave birth to his only son Thursday. Name: Tyrone.

* * *

WASHINGTON — Army Secretary **Wilber Brucker** has called for extension of the draft to help meet the threat of Korea-like wars which he said would continue for years.

* * *

VANCOUVER — An estimated $425,000 will go to the British Columbia division of the Canadian Cancer Society from the estate of long-time Vancouver resident **Mrs. Marion D. Laing**, who died last Nov. 21.

* * *

HOLLYWOOD — **Hedy Lamarr** has promised to "fight like a tiger" to straighten out her personal affairs now that she is feeling better. Her attorney filed suit for $51,000 from her estranged husband, **W. Howard Lee.**

* * *

HAVANA — **Fidel Castro** says his regime does "not fear criticism because we are acting honestly in all respects and we wish to continue doing so."

* * *

NEW YORK—**Gen. Fulgencio Batista**, ousted dictator of Cuba, denies reports that he is preparing an invasion of his country.

* * *

BURBANK, Calif.—Pianist-arranger **Buddy Cole**, 42, was reported in serious condition in hospital following a heart attack.

* * *

NEW YORK — Disc jockey **Peter Tripp** entered the second day of his "sleepless marathon" in an attempt to set a record of 200 hours without even a catnap.

* * *

COPENHAGEN — **Anastas Mikoyan** paid a surprise call on Danish **Premier Hans C. Hansen** for an hour's talk that was shrouded in secrecy.

* * *

VERNON—**A. R. Garrish** of Oliver was re-elected Thursday for his ninth term as president of the B.C. Fruit Growers' Association.

Proudest Highway Crumbles

LONDON (Reuters) — Britain's only super-highway, an 8¼-mile stretch which took 2½ years to build, has crumbled in 2½ weeks of freezing weather and thaw.

The four-lane expressway's surface is covered with bubbles, ridges, cracks and eruptions.

The $10,500,000 road was opened in a blaze of publicity by Prime Minister Macmillan.

Today the Preston By-pass, the modest begining of a modern network of roads which successive British governments have been promising since before the war, was being dubbed a "fiasco."

Paddle Unruly Pupils

NEW YORK (UPI) — A Brooklyn grand jury yesterday called for legislation which would permit New York's violence-harassed school teachers to paddle unruly students.

The jury, impanelled in November, 1957, after a wave of juvenile delinquency including rape, arson, murder and destruction of property, swept the city's schools, told Judge Samuel Leibowitz that conditions would get worse, not better, if teachers were refused control over their students.

Judge Leibowitz agreed, but the school board turned thumbs down on the plan.

The board said it took the position that teachers had to spare the rod because only the parents had the right to decide whether a child should be spanked.

Today's Events

A. N. Sears, president of the National Sales Executives' Association, is guest speaker at a combined meeting of the **Victoria Sales Executives' Club** and the **Capital City Commercial Club** at noon, Pacific Club . . . "Hectic Years of Transition in the Republic of Colombia," described for **Victoria Lions** by Rev. Ernest Fowler at noon, Empress Hotel.

15,000 Jeer Prisoner

HAVANA, Cuba (AP)—A crowd of more than 15,000 Cubans whistled, jeered and hooted at the first ex-army officer brought into Havana's sports stadium late Friday for public trial on war-crimes charges.

Maj. Jesus Sosa Blanco, former military commander at Holguin, Oriente province is accused of assassination, homicide and robbery.

In conformity with Cuban legal procedure, Sosa Blanco was not asked to plead guilty or innocent. But when he was asked to address the tribunal he denounced the charges as "all lies."

The crowd jeered.

Then Sosa Blanco, saying the crowd did not want to hear him, suddenly shouted: "I am in the Roman coliseum!"

Sosa Blanco told the tribunal he merely carried out the orders of his military superiors in war. "I do not ask for clemency," he cried. "I am a man of honor."

He said the rebels also had killed in war and if the killings on both sides constituted crimes "then I am a criminal."

Reading off the charges was interrupted frequently by roars from the crowd.

Defence counsel challenged the tribunal's authority to try Sosa Blanco in Havana because the charges were based on alleged acts in Oriente province but the tribunal overruled that contention and the crowd shouted its approval.

Castro announced just before the trial opened that he favors a quick windup of the trials and executions, though he is seeking to prove to the world that they are just. He said they will be ended "as soon as possible and the sooner the better."

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—Stainless Steel
—Steak Knives, set of 6
—Carving Set—Stag Handles
FASHION ROSE CRYSTAL—Tumblers
—Old Fashioneds
DINNERWARE—"Gaiety" Pattern
Ovenproof Dinner Set
GENTS' CUFF LINKS AND TIE BARS—
ELECTRIC SHAVERS—Ronson, Bulova, Schick, Sunbeam, Bentron
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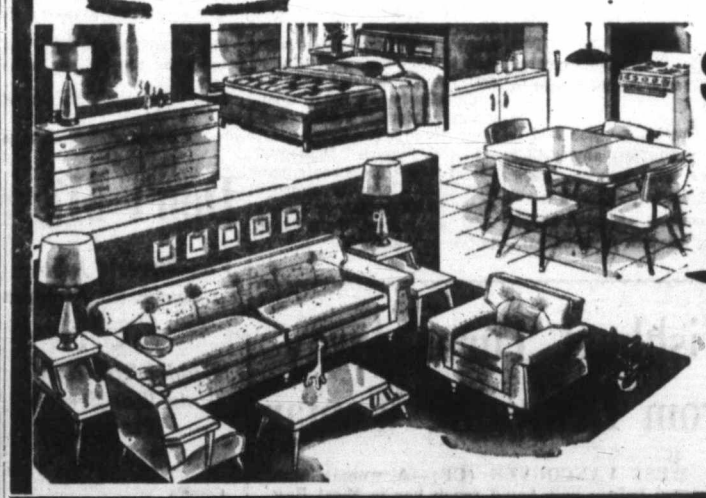
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Weather Forecast

January 23, 1959

Cloudy and mild with rain. Showers this afternoon. Winds increasing to east 25 and becoming southwest 20 this afternoon. Thursday precipitation, .61 inch. Sunshine, nil.

Recorded Temperatures
High ..... 39 Low 34

Forecast Temperatures
High ..... 45 Low 35
Sunrise .. 7.55 Sunset .. 4.57

East Coast of Vancouver Island—Cloudy and mild with rain becoming showery in the afternoon. Winds decreasing to southeast 25 this morning, shifting to southwest 20 this afternoon. High and low at Nanaimo, 42 and 35.

West Coast of Vancouver Island—Gale warning in effect for the northern half. Overcast with nearly continuous rain. Continuing mild. Winds, southeast 45 on the northern half and 30 in the southern half becoming southwest 25 this afternon. High and low at Estevan Point, 48 and 40.

TEMPERATURES

	Min.	Max.	Prep.
St. John's	17	28	.31
Halifax	32	48	.88
Montreal	24	36	.45
Ottawa	21	36	.26
Toronto	13	34	Trace
North Bay	3	14	.57
Kenora	—24	—14	Trace
Winnipeg	—23	—12	—
Brandon	—20	—12	—
The Pas	—26	—15	.03
Regina	—21	—12	—
Saskatoon	—26	—13	—
Prince Albert	—26	—11	—
North Battleford	—24	—14	Trace
Swift Current	—18	— 5	—
Medicine Hat	—22	— 1	—
Lethbridge	— 3	14	—
Calgary	—10	3	Trace
Edmonton	— 8	— 1	.05
Kimberley	3	13	.09
Crescent Valley	13	19	.25
Kaslo	15	22	.20
Grand Forks	10	21	.35
Kamloops	12	20	.16
Penticton	18	25	.31
Vancouver	33	37	.87
Prince Rupert	32	33	.08
Prince George	4	10	.43
Whitehorse	—17	—32	—
Seattle	40	47	.38
Portland	34	49	.12

Ship Calendar

MERCHANT SHIPPING
VICTORIA

In port—Norma.

OTHER PORTS

Crofton—La Bahia.
Cowichan Bay—National Bay.
Nanaimo—Demeterton.
Tahsis—Glenmoor.
Alberni—Barranduna, Union Enterprise.